

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 EA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 ACDA-12 IO-13 /122 W
-----054713 271734Z /20

R 271621Z JUN 78

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0827
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

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E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: PEPR EG YE YS
SUBJECT: EGYPT APPREHENSIVE OVER YEMENI DEVELOPMENTS

SUMMARY: EGYPTIAN PRESS GLOOMILY FORESEES INCREASING SOVIET INFLUENCE IN PDRY AND COMPLAINS THAT SOVIETS HAVE SHIFTED CONFLICT IN HORN TO EAST COAST OF RED SEA. AL-THOUGH LARGELY OVERTAKEN BY STARTLING EVENTS IN PDRY, YAR REQUEST TO AL SECGEN RESULTS IN CALL FOR EMERGENCY

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AL COUNCIL MEETING AT FOREIGN MINISTER LEVEL TO INVESTIGATE GHASHMI ASSASSINATION. EGYPTIANS, AND SADAT IN PARTICULAR, LIKELY TO BE DEEPLY APPREHENSIVE OVER ANOTHER PRO-MOSCOW COUP COMING ON HEELS OF AFGHAN EVENTS. ALTHOUGH EGYPTIANS REALIZE THAT YEMENS NOW PRIMARILY SAUDI RESPONSIBILITY, GOE WILL WANT TO DO SOMETHING TO REDUCE IMPACT OF ABD AL FATTAH ISMAIL VICTORY IN ADEN,

AND PERHAPS ALSO IN SANA. END SUMMARY.

1. BOTH AHRAM AND AKHBAR JUNE 27 CARRY BANNER HEADLINES REPORTING EXECUTION OF SALIM RUBAYYI ALI IN ADEN. EDITORIALS GLOOMILY FORESEE INCREASING SOVIET INFLUENCE IN PDRY. REPORTING OF DEMISE OF SALIM RUBAYYI RELATIVELY STRAIGHTFORWARD AND GLEANED FROM WIRE SERVICE ACCOUNTS, WHICH AGREE THAT ABD AL FATTAH ISMAIL NEW PDRY STRONGMAN DESPITE APPOINTMENT OF ALI NASIR AS PRESIDENT.

2. FRONT PAGE "NEWS ANALYSIS" IN AHRAM OPINES THAT ADEN COUP HAS "DONE AWAY WITH REMAINING HOPE IN SOUTH YEMEN FOR A BALANCED POLICY, BOTH ON INTERNAL LEVEL AND IN RELATIONS WITH YAR." AHRAM SEES COUP AS "FREEING SOVIET HAND" IN SOUTH YEMEN AND "SHIFTING CONFLICT IN AFRICAN HORN TO EAST COAST OF RED SEA AND SOUTHERN REACHES OF ARABIAN PENINSULA." AHRAM PREDICTS MORE TENSION IN AREA AS RESULT OF VICTORY OF PDRY "EXTREMISTS."

3. AKHBAR EDITORIAL ATTRIBUTES ALL RECENT YEMENI DEVELOPMENTS TO "MARXIST PRESENCE IN SOUTH YEMEN WHICH HAS TURNED THAT COUNTRY INTO SOVIET BASE SERVING MARXIST AND COMMUNIST PURPOSES." AKHBAR PREDICTED "THAT YEMEN WILL NOT FALL AN EASY PREY TO MARXIST DESIGNS" NOR CAN SOVIETS TURN YEMENS INTO MARXIST BASE

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AGAINST ARAB AND AFRICAN WORLDS.

4. ALTHOUGH LARGELY OVERTAKEN BY EVENTS, CAIRO DAILIES REPORT YAR REQUEST FOR EMERGENCY ARAB LEAGUE COUNCIL MEETING TO DISCUSS ASSASSINATION OF YAR PRESIDENT GHASHMI. YAR AL REP MUSTAFA YAQUB MET JUNE 26 WITH AL SECGEN RIAD AND INVITATIONS ISSUED SAME DAY FOR EMERGENCY SESSION IN CAIRO AT FOREIGN MINISTER LEVEL. AL BYLAWS REQUIRE RESPONSE TO SUCH EMERGENCY REQUEST WITHIN FIVE DAYS AND AHRAM PREDICTED THAT EMERGENCY MEETING COULD GET UNDERWAY BY JULY 1. IF PDRY DOES NOT SEND REPRESENTATIVE TO EMERGENCY MEETING TO DEFEND ADEN AGAINST CHARGES OF COMPLICITY IN GHASHMI ASSASSINATION, YAR REP WILL STATE SANA CASE AND INVESTIGATIVE COMMISSION WILL BE FORMED TO VISIT BOTH ADEN AND SANA. AHRAM ARTICLE QUOTES YAR FONMIN ASNAG IN SANA THAT TAPES OF SALIM RUBAYYI ALI-GHASHMI TELEPHONE CONVERSATION AND TESTIMONY OF PDRY DC-3 CREW WILL BE INTRODUCED AS EVIDENCE. ASNAG COMMENTED THAT YAR INVESTIGATING COMMITTEE WILL HAVE COMPLETED ITS REPORT WITHIN "FEW DAYS" AND WILL MAKE ITS FINDINGS AVAILABLE TO AL INVESTIGATORS.

5. COMMENT: WHILE THERE CLEAR NOTE OF ALARM OVER VICTORY OF SOVIET PROTEGE ABD AL FATTAH, EGYPTIAN PRESS SEES YAR AND PDRY SITUATION AS STILL TOO CONFUSED FOR DEFINITIVE ASSESSMENT OF LONGER TERM CONSEQUENCES. HOWEVER, EGYPTIANS--AND PARTICULARLY

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SADAT--BOUND TO BE DEEPLY APPREHENSIVE AT YET ANOTHER PRO-MOSCOW COUP COMING ON HEELS OF AFGHAN EVENTS, GOE RECOGNIZES THAT YEMENS TODAY (VICE 1962) PRIMARILY A SAUDI CONCERN AND SAUDI REACTION WILL IN PART DETERMINE GOE RESPONSE TO DEVELOPMENTS. PREVIOUS EGYPTIAN POLICY VIS-A-VIS PDRY HAD BEEN BASED ON SUPPORTING SALIM RUBAYYI AGAINST SOVIET-BACKED FACTION LED BY ABD AL FATTAH. WITH THIS STRATEGY IN SHAMBLES, AND

MODERATE COURSE IN YAR UNDER RENEWED THREAT FROM RE-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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NASCENT "PROGRESSIVES," EGYPTIANS WILL WANT TO DO SOMETHING. EILTS

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Message Attributes

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